

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device for processing images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

- an indicator which commands a processing to be executed for the image;
- a controller which sets up rank data in accordance with a number of times the processing is commanded by said indicator;
- a deletion directional member which directs to delete the image recorded in said image recording medium;
- a compressor which compresses the image instead of deleting the image when said deletion directional member directs to delete the image; and,
- a recorder which stores the compressed image.

2. (Original) The image processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said compressor alters a compression rate of the image based on said data.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for processing images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

- a step of commanding a processing to be executed for the image;

a step of setting up rank data in accordance with a number of times the  
~~commanded~~ processing is commanded;

a step of directing to delete the image recorded in said image recording  
medium;

a step of compressing the image instead of deleting the image when the  
deletion of the image is directed; and,

a step of storing the compressed image.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing device for processing  
images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

an indicator which commands a processing to be executed for the image;

a recorder which records a time when the indicator commands a processing;

a timer which measures an elapsed time since said time; and,

a controller which changes a compression rate, which is set in accordance  
with rank data for the image, based on output from said timer, wherein the rank data  
is set according to a number of times the processing to be executed for the image is  
commanded by the indicator.

6. (Previously Presented) The image processing device as claimed in  
claim 5, further comprising:

a detector which detects that said indicator gives no command for a  
predetermined time or more based on the output from said timer; and

the controller which controls so as to increase said compression rate based  
on the output from said detector.

7. (Currently Amended) The image processing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said controller sets up lower ~~evaluation value~~ rank data for the image when the indicator gives no command for a predetermined time or more based on the output from said timer.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for processing images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

- a step of commanding a processing to be executed for the image;
- a step of recording a time when the indicator commands a processing;
- a step of measuring an elapsed time since said time; and,
- a step of changing a compression rate, which is set in accordance with rank for the image data, based on said measured elapsed time and date, wherein the rank is set according to a number of times the processing to be executed for the image is commanded by the indicator.

9. (Previously Presented) The image processing method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

- a step of setting up a higher compression rate when it is detected that no command is given for a predetermined time or more.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing device for processing images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

- an indicator which commands a processing to be executed for the image;

a controller which sets up a rank value in accordance with a number of times processing is to be executed for the image;

a recorder which records a time when said indicator commands a processing;

a timer which measures an elapsed time since said time;

a detector which detects that said indicator gives no command for a predetermined time or more based on the output from said timer; and,

the controller which sets up a lower rank value based on the output from said detector.

11. (Currently Amended) The image processing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said ~~evaluation value~~ rank value is set up in accordance with the command from said indicator.

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for processing images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

a step of commanding a processing to be executed for the image;

a step of setting up a rank value in accordance with a number of times processing is to be executed for the image;

a step of recording a time when said processing is commanded;

a step of measuring an elapsed time since said time; and,

a step of setting a lower rank value when no command is given for the image for a predetermined time or more.

13. (Previously Presented) The image processing method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

a step of setting up said rank value in accordance with said command to be executed for the image.

14. (Previously Presented) An image processing system for processing images which are recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

a transfer circuit which transfers images recorded in a first recording medium, into a second recording medium differing from the first recording medium;

a recorder which records ID data of said second recording medium on said first recording medium, said ID data indicating that the image recorded in said first recording medium is transferred into said second recording medium;

a deletion directional member which directs to delete the image recorded in said first recording medium;

a detector which detects whether the image has already been transferred into said second recording medium based on said data when said deletion directional member directs to delete the image; and,

an indicator which indicates the detecting result output from said detector.

15. (Original) The image processing system as claimed in claim 14, wherein, in a state that the indicator indicates the detecting result, and when said deletion directional member directs the deletion, the image and said data are deleted.

16. (Original) The image processing system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said data is recorded in the first recording medium.

17. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for processing recorded images, comprising:

a step of transferring image recorded in a first recording medium, into a second recording medium differing from the first recording medium;

a step of recording ID data of said second recording medium on said first recording medium, said ID data indicating that the image is transferred;

a step of directing to delete the image;

a step of determining whether the image has already been transferred into said second recording medium based on said data when the deletion of the image is directed; and,

a step of indicating the result.

18. (Original) An image processing method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

a step of deleting the image and said data when the deletion of the image is directed in a state indicating the judgment result.